



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

intemperance, dissipation, and profligacy were carried to the highest pitch. Intoxication frequently prevented the Austrian General Goltz from giving out the countersign; and General Banner was, on one occasion, so drunk for four days together, that he could not receive the French ambassador, Beauregard, who had an important message to deliver. "Such was the state of triumphant crime," says a writer of the period, "that many, driven to despair, denied even the existence of a Deity, declaring that if there were a God in heaven, he would not fail to destroy with thunder and lightning, a world of sin and wickedness."

The peasants, expelled from their homes, enlisted with the oppressors, in order to inflict upon others the sufferings which they had themselves been made to endure. The fields were allowed to run waste, and the absence of industry on one side, added to destruction on the other, soon produced famine, which, as usual, brought infections and pestilential diseases in its train. In 1635, there were not hands enough left at Schweidnitz to bury the dead, and the town of Ohlau had lost its last citizen. Want augmented crime, even where an increase was thought impossible. In many places hunger had overcome all repugnance to human flesh, and the tales of cannibalism handed down to us are of far too horrible a nature to be here repeated.

The cup of human suffering was full even to overflowing, and the very aspect of the land was undergoing a rapid change. Forests sprung up during the contest, and covered entire districts, which had been in full cultivation before the war; and wolves, and other beasts of prey took possession of the deserted haunts of men. This was particularly the case in Brunswick, Brandenburg, and Pomerania, where heaps of ashes in the midst of wildernesses served long afterwards to mark the spots where peace and civilization had once flourished. In many parts of the country, the ruins of castles and stately edifices still attest the fury with which the war was carried on; and on such spots tradition generally points out the surrounding forests, as occupying the sites of fertile fields, whence the lordly owners of the mansions derived food and subsistence for themselves and their numerous retainers."

PRIZE ESSAYS ON A CONGRESS OF NATIONS.

Prize Essays on a Congress of Nations for the adjustment of international disputes, and for the promotion of universal peace, without resort to arms; together with a Sixth Essay, comprising the substance of the Rejected Essays. Boston: Whipple & Damrell, for the American Peace Society. 1840. pp. 700.

The history of this volume is rather long and complicated. The American Peace Society, at its first annual meeting in 1829, offered, through one of its distinguished friends, a premium

first of thirty dollars, and then of fifty, for the best essay on a Congress of Nations ; but of the four or five essays presented, the one that was accepted and published, gave only a brief and inadequate, though popular view of the subject. The magnitude of the object called for a much greater effort ; and to secure, if possible, a dissertation worthy of the theme, two gentlemen in the city of New York offered, in 1831, a premium of five hundred dollars, for the best essay on a Congress of Nations, and one hundred for the next best ; but the committee of award—Hon. Joseph Story, William Wirt, and John M'Lean,—could not agree upon any one of the forty essays presented, and recommended an equal distribution of the premium among five which they designated. This decision was rejected ; and the gentlemen who had offered the premium, immediately raised it to one thousand dollars for the best essay only ; but the new board of arbiters—Hon. J. Q. Adams, James Kent, and Thomas S. Grimké, whose lamented death in 1834, left a vacancy that was subsequently filled by Hon. Daniel Webster,—could not agree in thinking any one of the candidates exclusively deserving of the prize, and therefore declined making any award.

Here the whole business rested, and left the American Peace Society in a predicament somewhat embarrassing. We had assumed no responsibility in the matter ; but having permitted our periodical to be used in giving publicity to the offer of successive premiums, we felt ourselves bound in honor to do what we could to prevent the best writers from losing the benefit of their labors. Our President was accordingly authorized, with the aid of such persons as he might choose from the Executive Committee, to select five of the best essays, and publish them in a volume, together with a sixth essay from his own pen, to contain along with his own remarks, whatever matter, revelant to the subject, he might find in the rejected essays. Several had been withdrawn, and three or four published by their authors ; still thirty-five were examined, of

which five, selected by the Committee, are published in the work now before us.

This volume, though unavoidably delayed much beyond our original purpose, will fully meet every reasonable expectation of the subscribers. It contains about twenty per cent. more matter than was promised in the prospectus; and the typographical execution is equal to any thing we have ever seen on this side of the Atlantic. It is in every respect a rich and splendid volume.

We regret that the names of all the writers could not be given. One chose to withdraw his from the public; and two other essays were accompanied with no signatures that furnished any clue to the writers. Only three names are given—**JOHN A. BOLLES**, of Boston, **THOMAS C. UPHAM**, Professor in Bowdoin College, Maine, and **WILLIAM LADD**, the President of our Society.

Our limits will not allow us, at present, to attempt a full review of this great work; but we feel safe in assuring our readers that it will richly repay a perusal. It contains a large amount of valuable and interesting matter; and few persons can rise from a thorough examination of its contents, without a far deeper impression than ever before of the magnitude and practical importance of the subject it discusses; a subject demanding, and destined ere-long to secure, incomparably more attention than it has ever yet received.

The essays composing this volume, are written with various degrees of ability, and acquaintance with the subject; but every one of them is rich in thought, and most of them beautiful in their style. In a field of inquiry so new, so vast, and so difficult, we could not expect perfect maturity, completeness or consistency of views; but we find all these qualities in a much higher degree than we had anticipated. We are also surprised to discover so little repetition in a series of half a dozen writers on the same subject; but as each one struck out his own train of thought, only a few ideas are repeated, and these in connec-

tions and with aspects more or less new. The Essays were obviously selected with an eye not merely to their intrinsic merits, but especially to a consecutive and cumulative exhibition of the whole subject; and the committee of selection inform us that some, confessedly superior, as compositions, to a part of those published, were rejected because they were occupied with topics interesting to the general reader, but irrelevant to the single object for which the premium was offered.

I. The first Essay is by JOHN A. BOLLES, a member of the Boston bar, and presents a brief, but lucid and well-arranged view of the general subject. It first proves, by arguments apart from the promises of Revelation, the possibility of abolishing the custom of war. The second chapter sketches the history and character of international jurisprudence, for the purpose of illustrating its deficiencies, and thus showing the necessity of a congress or grand convention of the civilized world to supply those deficiencies, and form a settled, uniform law of nations. The third chapter discusses the nature of such a congress—its formation, its purposes and powers, its modes of operation, and the means of enforcing its decisions. The fourth and last chapter reviews the history, nature and influence of tribunals or confederacies somewhat analogous, to the one we propose; and comes with much force to the conclusion, that no valid objection to our scheme can be drawn from the defects and evils of devices so unlike our own.

II. The second Essay, by an unknown writer who assumes the name of HAMILTON, is somewhat obscure, and likely to be read with less interest than any other one in the volume. Still it is well argued, and will reward those who may have patience to dig out its deep-laid thoughts.

III. The third Essay, signed M. by its unknown author, is written in a beautiful style, and will be perused with much interest. It is more thoroughly historical than any other in its illustration of the subject, and spends its main strength in

showing the feasibility and efficiency of the proposed Congress ; points which it discusses with much clearness and force.

IV. The fourth Essay, by PROFESSOR UPHAM, is remarkably lucid in its style and arrangement. The author seems to have grasped his whole subject in one view, and then divided it into a natural succession of chapters—historical notices of international congresses—the objects which would specially demand attention from such a Congress as we propose—weights and measures—the slave trade—insufficiency of present modes of redress—objections to the proposed Congress—circumstances favorable to it—concluding remarks.

V. The fifth Essay, by “A Friend of Peace,” contains many valuable thoughts directly pertinent to the main point. The writer has obviously reflected much on the subject, and presents his ideas in a way well calculated to arrest attention and remove objections to the general scheme.

VI. The last Essay, from the pen of our President, professes to give the substance of what he found relevant to the subject in the rejected Essays ; but it bears a strong impress of his own mind, and exhibits proof of nearly, if not quite as much originality as any of the preceding essays. It is divided into fifteen chapters, and presents a fuller, and, on some points, a more minute and thorough view of the subject than we have ever seen. It brings the whole discussion down to the present time, and will be found, we think, more satisfactory than any thing hitherto published. It contains some new views that we deem very important ; and its distinction between the legislative and judicial functions of the proposed Congress, between a Congress of legislators, and a court of judges, will be likely to remove most of the objections heretofore urged against the measure.

Appended to this essay, we find a series of interesting and important documents—extracts from the speech made at the opening of the Congress of Panama ; first, second and third petitions to the Legislature of Massachusetts on a Congress of

Nations, with the able reports made in favor of their object, and the strong resolves that were finally passed with so much unanimity ;—first petition to Congress on the same subject at the session of 1837–38, together with Mr. Legare's Report from the Committee on Foreign Affairs ;—subsequent petitions to Congress in answer to the objections urged in that report ;—an able petition, as a specimen of what has been done in different parts of the country, from the friends of peace in Portsmouth, N. H. ;—and the petition of the London Peace Society to Parliament, in the winter of 1838–39.

We know not to how many minds the world is indebted for the progress already made in bringing this great subject before the public ; but we think much praise is due to ORIGEN BACHELER, and L. D. DEWEY, of the city of New York, who have in various ways labored long, and hard, and not without success, for the furtherance of this object ; to Mr. LADD, whose time, and money, and popular pen have been so cheerfully and zealously devoted to the same purpose ; and, though last, not least, to THOMAS THOMPSON, of this city, who has perhaps done more than any other man to prepare the way for a successful presentation of the subject before the community, and whose indefatigable zeal secured the very important action of our own Legislature in favor of the project.

Our limits will not allow us at present to say more concerning this invaluable contribution to the fast growing literature of peace ; but we design hereafter to lay the volume under large contributions to our pages. It was written for the world ; and measures are in train to insure its circulation through all the high places of Christendom. A copy will be sent to the President of the United States, and the head of every department, to the Governor of every State in the Union, to every foreign ambassador at Washington, to every cabinet in Europe, and to all the republics on this continent.

We cannot help regarding this whole movement as likely to form a new and important era in the cause of peace. Our

main difficulty has heretofore consisted in getting the attention of mankind ; but we think the eye of Christendom *must* ere-long be gradually turned more and more to the subject, until its master-minds, its Burkes, and Cannings, and Broughams, its Foys, and Perriers, and Hardenbergs, its Franklins, and Madisons, and Marshalls, will concentrate upon it the full blaze of their own clear, vigorous, richly furnished intellects, and hold it up before the whole world like the sun in the heavens.

Such a volume necessarily involves a large amount of expense ; and we trust our friends, not only the subscribers but others, will come promptly to our relief. We have no surplus funds for this object ; our income does not suffice even for our current, indispensable expenses ; and our President, who has generously assumed the pecuniary responsibility of the work, had previously paid or pledged for the cause some two thousand dollars in a single year. There is far greater need of liberal contributions from our friends, for this and other purposes, than any of them are aware ; and we hope that all, who are able, will furnish themselves with a copy of this work. The edition, however, is small ; and those who wish for a copy, should secure one without delay.

WANT OF FUNDS.

No cause is so liable as that of Peace, to have its pecuniary claims overlooked, especially at a time like the present ; but we would earnestly remind our friends, that more money is indispensable to the prosecution of our great and good work. We cannot support agencies, and publish a periodical, and tracts, and volumes, besides all our other unavoidable expenses, without funds. In meeting the special emergences of the last year, we went nearly \$1,500 beyond our income, though we did not make a tenth part of the efforts that ought to have been put forth ; the President of our Society paid or pledged for the cause about \$2,000 from his own purse ; some other friends are willing to make similar efforts and sacrifices in proportion to their means ;